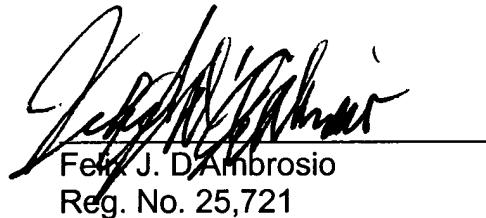


**REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Receipt of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of April 19, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,



Felix J. DAmbrosio  
Reg. No. 25,721

Date: May 19, 2004

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314 - 1176  
(703) 683-0500